

Comparison of
State Unemployment
Insurance Laws

as of January 1, 1960

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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PREFACE

In the Federal-State system of unemployment insurance established in this country under the Social Security Act, the individual States have been free to develop the particular program that seems best adapted to conditions prevailing within the State. Consequently, no two State laws are alike and the differences are increased by amendments from year to year.

It is important that the public know the details of the employment security program and understand how it functions as a part of the Nation's comprehensive system of social insurance. The *Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws* reports State by State the types of workers that are covered under the State law; the methods of financing the program; the benefits that are payable; the conditions to be met for payment; and the administrative organizations established to do the job. Such specific technical information is essential to an understanding of how the employment security program can make its maximum contribution to individual and family security as well as to the stability of business and of the economy in general.

During the regular legislative sessions of 1958 and 1959, 47 State legislatures amended their State unemployment insurance laws. The most significant provisions of the 51 State laws as of January 1, 1960, have been summarized and compared in this document. All of the amendments reported are effective by January 1, 1960, unless otherwise noted. While the *Comparison* analyzes primarily the State statutes, in certain cases in which general statements in the statutes are implemented by specific statements in rules, regulations, opinions of attorneys general, or court decisions, the latter are included with notes indicating their source.

In the summaries and tables "State" includes the District of Columbia, in accordance with the definition of State in the Social Security Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. Puerto Rico, which has had a program of unemployment benefits for agricultural and industrial laborers in the sugarcane industry, extended its program in 1956 to other industrial workers. Since the program is not as yet included in the Federal-State system of unemployment insurance set up under the Social Security Act, no analysis of the provisions of the Puerto Rico law is included here.

The Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, which is administered by the Railroad Retirement Board for railroad workers, is outside the Federal-State system of unemployment insurance established under the Social Security Act and is not included in this comparison. Benefits are payable to railroad workers for unemployment due to sickness as well as to lack of work under a Federal formula applicable throughout the country.

Four States provide benefits for unemployment due to nonoccupational disability as well as for unemployment due to lack of work: In California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, the programs are administered by the unemployment insurance agencies. The New York law is administered by the State workmen's compensation agency. The laws of these four States are compared briefly in chapter VI.

Since State employment security agencies are administering the unemployment insurance provisions of title XV of the Social Security Act, as amended (Public Law 767, 83d Cong. and Public Law 848, 85th Cong.), a brief description of these Federal programs is included in chapter VII.

The *Comparison* has been issued solely for informational, reference, and research purposes. It should not be considered an official interpretation of the State unemployment insurance laws. The State statutes must be consulted for the full text of State laws. The State rules and regulations, opinions of attorneys general, and administrative and court decisions contain the official interpretations of these laws.

The *Comparison* has been prepared in the Law and Procedures Review Branch, Division of Determinations and Hearings of the Unemployment Insurance Service. It supersedes the *Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws* as of January 1, 1958.

ROBERT C. GOODWIN,
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